(a) whether the World Health Organization (WHO) has recently warned India that H1N1 virus can be dangerous in its second phase which is approaching very soon;

(b) if so, whether WHO has provided assistance to some institutes to develop and manufacture the vaccine to fight H1N1 virus;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the strategies formulated by Government to face the challenges of H1N1 virus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) World Health Organization has advised preparedness for a winter surge in influenza cases.

(b) and (c) World Health Organisation has facilitated transfer of technology to six vaccine manufacturers in developing countries including one in India for manufacture of H5N1 (Avian Influenza) Vaccine. With the pandemic affecting worldwide, WHO has supported these identified vaccine manufacturers to shift to H1N1 vaccine. WHO has also provided candidate vaccine strains to three other indigenous manufacturers.

(d) Government of India adopted a containment/disease limiting strategy in the initial part of the H1N1 pandemic, when India was not affected. With community spread reporting in some States, Government of India shifted to a mitigation strategy that included creating awareness, providing access to those affected for clinical assessment, treatment and hospitalization, and limiting further spread by social distancing measures.

Swine flu

2865. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total deaths so far due to swine flu in the country and whether Government has given permission to six companies to supply flu medicine;

(b) whether H1N1 deaths in India are more than twice that of the world rate; and

(c) whether Prime Minister has also urged his Ministry to take proper steps to check spurt in polio cases in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) So far there have been 670 deaths due to Pandemic Influenza A H1N1 (as-on 11.12.2009). The office of the Drug Controller General (India) has granted permission to six companies to market Oseltamivir.

(b) No.

(c) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, while approving the 'Implementation of Polio Eradication Strategy for the year 2009-10 to 2011-12' has directed the Ministry that recurrence of polio cases in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar be investigated to ascertain the reasons

thereof, and the Ministry devise ways and means to ensure universal coverage in all States while paying special attention to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Tainted blood used in blood transfusion

†2866. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents which has come to the notice of Government regarding the transfusion of infected blood to patients due to negligence of doctors in Rajasthan in the last two years;

(b) whether the case of transfusion of HIV-infected blood to six children in Sri Ganga Nagar district of Rajasthan in August, 2009 has come into the light;

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to stop the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) As per the report received from Rajasthan State AIDS Control Society, one incident has come to the notice of the State Government regarding the transfusion of un-screened blood to patients, due to negligence of doctors at Shyam Nursing Home and Goyal Laboratory in Anupgarh town of Sri Ganga Nagar district in Rajasthan.

A detailed enquiry was conducted by Block Chief Medical Officer, Anupgarh and Joint Director, Bikaner on 29th August 2009. No substantial evidence was found on charge of transfusion of HIV infected blood to one patient. Samples were also taken from 11 blood donors for HIV testing. The report suggests that all the samples tested were found to be HIV negative.

(c) and (d) Based on the enquiry report, a FIR was lodged at Police Station, Anupgarh on 29th August 2009.

The Government of Rajasthan has constituted one team in each district comprising of Block Chief Medical Officer, Medical Officer In charge and concerned Drug Control Official, for inspection of all Nursing Homes, Hospitals and Diagnostic Laboratories in each district.

AIIMS-like hospital in Assam

2867. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the proposed budgetary position of a AIIMS-type hospital in Assam; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.